

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

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Wednesday, December 10, 2003

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is the last issue of The Ehlers e-Newsletter for 2003, due to Congress recessing for the remainder of the year. We will return to your e-mailbox when Congress reconvenes in January 2004. Happy Holidays!*

Previously in the U.S. House of Representatives

HOUSE FUNDING BILL INCLUDES SEVERAL WEST MI PROJECTS - Several West Michigan projects received funding approval Monday as the U.S. House of Representatives completed work on its appropriations bills for the Fiscal Year 2004 cycle, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers announced.

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/120803OmnibusEarmarks.html

EHLERS COMMENDS PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO END STEEL TARIFF -

Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, made the following statement in response to President George W. Bush's announcement that he would rescind 21-month-old, 30 percent tariffs on imported foreign steel, effective at 12 midnight, Dec. 5:

"I am delighted that the President has ended these tariffs, as I disagreed with his decision to implement them in the first place. Eliminating the steel tariff will result in a lower cost for steel for manufacturers of office furniture, auto parts and many other products produced in West Michigan. In turn, this will lower the cost of those final products, which will drive up sales and increase employment in our area."

For Congressman Ehlers' complete statement, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/120403SteelTariffsGone.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2003

The House will convene at 9:30 a.m. for morning hour and 11 a.m. for legislative business. First votes could be as early as 12 noon. Last votes expected: Early Evening.

Bill Subject to a Rule (1 bill):

Conference Report on H.R. 2673 – Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004: The Consolidated Appropriations bill for FY04 fully complies with the fiscal parameters of the Budget Resolution and contains \$328.1 billion in discretionary spending and \$820 billion in total spending including mandatory funds. Additional spending has been offset by a \$1.8 billion rescission from P.L. 107-38 and P.L. 107-117, the \$40 billion post 9/11 supplemental, exempting any relief funds for New York, Washington, D.C., area and rural Pennsylvania and any unobligated balances in Defense. It also includes an across the board reduction of .59 percent to all programs, projects and activities exempting Defense and Military Construction funds. Some of the additional discretionary investments that were included are: \$350 million for the Millennium

Challenge Corporation, \$1 billion for Election Reform, \$1.3 billion for Veteran's Medical Care, \$1.65 billion for priority education programs and \$50 million for security expenses at the national party conventions in Boston and New York City.

This bill was approved Monday by the House on a 242-176 vote.

Historical Tidbits

On Dec. 8 ...

1776 - George Washington's retreating army in the American Revolution crossed the Delaware River from New Jersey to Pennsylvania.

1863 - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln announced his plan for the Reconstruction of the South.

1941 - The United States entered World War II when it declared war against Japan. The act came one day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Britain and Canada also declared war on Japan.

1987 - U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty agreeing to destroy their nations' arsenals of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

1993 - U.S. President Clinton signed into law the North American Free Trade Agreement.

On Dec. 9 ...

1994 - U.S. President Clinton fired Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders after learning that she had told a conference that masturbation should be discussed in school as a part of human sexuality.

1999 - The U.S. announced that it was expelling a Russian diplomat that had been caught gathering information with an eavesdropping device at the U.S. State Department.

On Dec. 10 ...

1817 - Mississippi was admitted to the Union as the 20th American state.

1906 - U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for helping mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.

1980 - South Carolina Representative John W. Jenrette resigned to avoid being expelled from the U.S. House of Representatives following his conviction on charges to the FBI's Abscam investigation.

On Dec. 11 ...

1816 - Indiana was admitted to the Union as the 19th American state.

1930 - The Bank of the United States in New York failed.

1941 - Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. The U.S. in turn declared war on the two countries.

1980 - U.S. President Jimmy Carter signed into law legislation creating \$1.6 billion environmental "superfund" that would be used to pay for cleaning up chemical spills and toxic waste dumps.

1985 - The U.S. House of Representatives joined the U.S. Senate by giving final congressional approval to the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law.

1998 - Majority Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee pushed through three articles of impeachment against U.S. President Clinton.

2001 - It was announced that U.S. President George W. Bush would withdrawing the U.S. from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia.

On Dec. 12 ...

1800 - Washington, DC, was established as the capital of the United States.

1870 - Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker to be sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

1975 - Sara Jane Moore pled guilty to a charge of trying to kill U.S. President Ford in San Francisco the previous September.

2000 - The U.S. Supreme Court found that the recount ordered by the Florida Supreme Court in the 2000 U.S. Presidential election was unconstitutional. U.S. Vice President Al Gore conceded the election to Texas Gov. George W. Bush the next day.

2001 - The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would implement minimum federal election standards and provide funding to help states modernize their voting systems.
